

PERIL OF DISEASE TO U. S. SOLDIERS

More to Be Dreaded in Mexico Than Bullets of Huerta's Followers.

NEED TO GUARD AGAINST THE MOSQUITO AND LOUSE

Large Proportion of Mexican People Are Affected With Body Parasite.

That the mosquitoes of the coastal regions of Mexico, and the parasite insects with which a large proportion of the population of Mexico is infested, may prove a more serious menace to unacclimated American troops than the Mexican soldiers and "snipers" is the belief of officials of the United States public health service.

The mosquitoes which swarm in the low lying regions along the Gulf coast of Mexico are bearers of yellow fever and malaria, and heroic measures will be required to protect American troops from their ravages. The body parasites with which a large proportion of Mexican people are infested, carries the dread typhus infection, and in both cases the diseases are transmitted by the bites of the insects.

Smallpox is also frequently carried from person to person by means of insects, though this plague is considered easier to handle and to conquer than the other diseases.

To Guard U. S. Border.

Fear of introduction into the United States of yellow fever and typhus, through the great influx of refugees from Mexico was voiced by Secretary McAdoo of the Treasury Department.

He asked Congress for an appropriation of \$50,000 to meet the possibility of this money being expended under the direction of the public health service.

To fight the menace of yellow fever and malaria at Vera Cruz, where American troops are now in possession, two surgeons of the public health service, experts and immunists, are now directing the sanitation of the city.

It will take time to make their efforts successful, but they are proceeding with the utmost wisdom and efficiency.

To meet the possibility of a Mexican military campaign, and for general hygienic reasons, the public health service has been making an extensive study of health conditions in that republic.

Surgeon Joseph Goldberger, of the United States public health service, in a brief note on the "Prevention of Typhus Fever," made public today.

Because of the widespread prevalence of typhus in certain areas of Mexico, some observers have been led to regard it as a disease of the tropics. It does occur, however, except in an imported disease, in any portion of Mexico which has a tropical climate. It is only found in the plateau region, at an elevation of 5,000 feet or more, and particularly in the larger cities, such as Puebla, Mexico City, San Luis Potosi, Guadalajara and Saltillo. It is a disease of temperate and cold climates.

Associated With Poverty.

Its association with poverty and filth is well known, comments Surgeon Goldberger. It spares no age, though in young people and children it is manifested differently than in the adult, and it is somewhat milder in its effect on children.

Typhus is transmitted from person to person by means of the body louse. Surgeon Goldberger, working in Mexico City in conjunction with Surgeons Ricketts, Wilder and Anderson, all of the public health service, was one of the discoverers of this fact, following a suggestion made by Surgeon Nicolle of the Italian army, as result of investigations in the Tunisian campaign.

Head louse may possibly serve as a propagating agent, but this is not established.

It seems reasonably certain to the investigators that typhus is communicated by the louse which is found in the blood of the human body, and the louse is the only one understood why typhus has been peculiarly associated with misery and poverty.

It is a disease of the human body, a disease of filth and army camps, sometimes called a fever and camp disease, but it is not a disease of poverty and overcrowding.

Fundamental rules for avoidance of typhus infection are based on the important role played by the louse in its transmission. Association with a typhus case, in the absence of this transmitting agent, is not dangerous. Danger threatens only when the louse is about.

Prevention Easy in Theory.

To prevent infection, Dr. Goldberger points out, it is only necessary for the individual to avoid being bitten by a louse. In theory this may readily be done, as the body louse infests and attaches itself almost entirely to the body louse, and it is known that boiling kills this vermin and its eggs. Individual prophylaxis is based essentially, therefore, on the avoidance of contact with individuals likely to harbor lice.

Practically, however, this is not always easy, especially under conditions of such intimate association as are imposed by city life. Particularly in this case, in some of the large Mexican cities, where a large proportion of the population harbors this insect. In such circumstances, it is suggested by Dr. Goldberger, it would be well to avoid crowded and crowded places, such as the public markets, principal thoroughfares or public assemblies at which people gather.

Community precautions, Dr. Goldberger considers, effectively and intelligently carried out, would be easier and more conclusive in protecting the individual than the individual's own effort to protect himself. When possible, public bathhouses and public washhouses, where the poor may bathe and do their washing at a minimum cost should be provided.

Similar provision should be made in military and construction camps, says Dr. Goldberger, looking ahead to the possibility of Americans meeting this danger in Mexico. Troops in the field should be given opportunity as frequently as possible to wash themselves and scrub their bodies.

Help Spread the Disease.

Fundamentally sanitation and health are economic problems, the observer comments. In proportion as the economic conditions of the masses have improved, in proportion to their ability to keep clean.

While economic evolution is a slow process, he suggests such precaution as existing conditions permit looking to the reduction or complete eradication of typhus.

Louder houses, cheap boarding houses, night shelters, hospitals, jails and prisons are important factors in the spread and as the focus of typhus. They should have rigid sanitary supervision including enforcement of measures to free all inmates of such institutions of lice.

Dr. Goldberger, in his monograph, discusses the symptoms of typhus, and the treatment to be accorded. He does not regard the disease, under proper treatment, as nearly so deadly as earlier investigators held. He does not consider that mortality should exceed over 10 per cent, although many outbreaks have from three to five deaths in every ten infected.

GEN. VILLA IS RATED AS GREAT MAN OF MEXICO

Andrew H. Olson Says He Is Also the "Friend of Americans."

Carranza Recognized as President of the Republic, But Not Popular With Peons.

"Gen. Villa is the great man of Mexico and a friend of Americans." This is the opinion of Andrew H. Olson, after having followed Villa's troops from Chihuahua to Torreon, serving under Villa, Carranza and Huerta. Mr. Olson has written to friends in this city giving a comparative pen picture of the three Mexican leaders. Olson's home is in Lakewood, Minn. While in Mexico he was thrown into prison for two days and was released through the friendship with one of the Mexican generals. He was forced to join the Mexican Red Cross Society to save himself from being killed in encounters between the warring factions.

Saves Life of Officer.

Olson was at the battle of Torreon in which Gen. Villa came out victorious, and it was on this battlefield that he saved the life of Capt. Jesus Potaro of the constitutional army. Capt. Potaro was found on the battlefield unconscious by Olson, who rushed him to a hospital at Torreon.

When Capt. Potaro revived he took from his clothes a Mexican horseshoe belt, trimmed with silver "caboche" dollars and other carved silver, and presented it to Olson.

"Villa is the great man of Mexico, I think," said Olson. "He does not drink, is kind to his men, and is universally recognized as their leader. The peons all place great faith in Villa as a fighter and whenever he comes down the street they take off their hats and cheer him."

Carranza Recognized as President.

"I met Gen. Carranza April 12, and while he is a better educated man than Gen. Villa, the people have not the faith in him that they have in Villa. Gen. Carranza, however, is universally recognized among the peons as president of the country."

"A low-down, good-for-nothing," that's what everybody says of President Huerta, Olson says. "He is a drunkard, and all reports of his misdeeds in vice are true, from what I learned and saw of him."

Olson left Minneapolis last September for Bisbee, Ariz., to enter the mining business, but at the outbreak of the Mexican trouble he went to Chihuahua to photograph. Here he was seized by the constitutionalists and thrown into prison after his camera and paraphernalia had been confiscated. It was while in prison that Olson became acquainted with Capt. Potaro, the man he later saved after the battle of Torreon, and it was to him that Olson owes his release from prison.

Joins the Red Cross.

Finding it was unsafe to remain in Mexico any longer unless in some active role, Olson was persuaded to join the Mexican Red Cross as an attendant, and in this position he did rescue work at the battle of Chihuahua, Gomez Palacio, Torreon and Juarez.

"Gen. Villa is a friend of the Americans," said Olson. "He always spoke to any Americans that were in any of the cities attacked, and he personally saw that they were removed from the scene of fighting without being injured."

"The conditions that exist among the peons as a result of the fighting in this country are the poor and ignorant, and with the war devastating the country, they have been forced to seek other means for their food supplies. You see many of the peons eating rattlesnakes, while others scour the country for Mexican mesquite and other natural grasses and herbs."

Hearings on Bill Ended.

The hearings on the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill before the subcommittee of the Senate appropriations committee in charge of the bill have been ended, according to announcement yesterday afternoon by Senator Martin, chairman of the appropriations committee. The committee will begin next week the work of framing the bill.

"Legend of Niagara" Tonight.

"Legend of Niagara," a drama arranged by Miss Olive C. Jones, a teacher in the public schools, is to be given at the Howard Theater this evening at 8:30 o'clock for the benefit of the Colored Social Settlement, 16 L street southwest. It is to be produced under the direction of the Orphean Dramatic Club and about fifty children will take part.

J. Edward Burke, fifty years old, a merchant, died Friday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Samuel T. Hickman, Frederick, Md. He was a director of the Franklin Savings Bank.

AMERICAN REFUGEES FROM MEXICO ARRIVING AT GALVESTON.

The steamship Esperanza of the Ward line, chartered by the government and equipped as an armored cruiser, on her arrival at Galveston, Tex., bringing in 372 American refugees from Mexico. During the trip from Vera Cruz the ship was fired on from the Mexican shore, and the marines aboard the Esperanza did some effective work by firing back at the Mexican riflemen.

ENSIGN E. O. McDONNELL LONG A RESIDENT HERE

Baltimorean Who Unfurled Flag at Vera Cruz Comes of Family of Fighters.

ENSIGN EDWARD O. McDONNELL.

Washington and Baltimore shared reflected honors when Ensign Edward Orrick McDonnell pulled the string that caused the Stars and Stripes to unfurl in far-off Vera Cruz over the old "fortress beneath the seas," replacing the last Mexican flag over that port.

With our fighting forces sent to Mexico to exact respect for the Stars and Stripes it was very appropriate that a Baltimore boy of a long line of ancestors who have served their country in battle, from the birthplace of the national anthem, should be selected to unfurl Old Glory over the captured port.

And Washington shared in the distinction because Ensign McDonnell has spent much of his life in this city and is as well known here as in Baltimore. His brother, the Rev. Eugene De Lacy McDonnell, is stationed at St. Aloysius Church, and is president of Gonzaga College and director of the "third Sunday brigade."

Week's Program for Home Club.

A program of music and dancing has been arranged for each night next week at the Home Club for the Interior Department, and in addition Thursday night Daniel M. Greene of the general land office will give an illustrated lecture entitled "The Cathedrals of Europe."

Minneapolis's Guns Fire Salute.

As Ensign McDonnell pulled that string the bands of the battleship Utah and of the battleship Florida, on which he is stationed, played "The Star Spangled Banner." The Star Spangled Banner, the Minnesota's guns belched forth their salute, the

SHELLS FROM THE CHESTER DESTROY THE "STATUE REFORMA" AT VERA CRUZ



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Use of Flag Is Asked.

An effort is being made by the board of managers of the forthcoming national "Star Spangled Banner" centennial celebration to obtain from the Navy Department in Baltimore the United States flag raised over Vera Cruz by Ensign McDonnell. A letter was received by Secretary Daniels yesterday, requesting the loan of the flag for exhibition with the original "Star Spangled Banner" when it is escorted to Fort McHenry by President Wilson and the governors of the eighteen states which formed the Union in 1784.

Should the committee be successful in getting the flag it will be placed in the breeze for the first time on American soil on the steel flagstaff to be erected at Fort McHenry, and will be the first of the flag to be flown over the captured port.

Petition for Divorce Dismissed.

Justice Stafford has dismissed a petition for a limited divorce brought by Mrs. Nina Lesby Cowell against Harry Stanley Cowell. The court decided that the wife had not proved the allegations made against her husband. She had charged cruelty and failure to support her property. Attorney W. H. Walsh represented the husband, while Attorney George W. Drew appeared for the wife.

Dies From Dose of Poison.

Ruth Jackson, colored, nineteen years old, who resided at 477 Missouri avenue northwest, last night took a dose of poison, following a quarrel with a male friend. She died at Emergency Hospital about 1 o'clock this morning. Coroner Novitt found that she took the poison with suicidal intent.

Will Be Sent to Mexico City.

MEXICO CITY, May 2.—Dr. Edward Ryan of the American Red Cross, who was captured at Zacatecas by the command of Gen. Joaquin Maas and sentenced to death as a spy, was saved by an order signed by Minister of War Huerta at 11 o'clock Thursday night. Dr. Ryan will be brought to this city and turned over to the Brazilian legation.

Personal to Rivermen.

Capt. Albert Carley, master of the bay schooner Sidonia Carley, is in the city for two or three days on a visit to his family, while the vessel is loading lumber in Coan river, Va., for Baltimore.

Capt. Lewis Worrell, master of the schooner Lewis Worrell of the Carter fleet of this city, is reported seriously ill at his home in Westmoreland county, near Oak Grove. Capt. Barney Worrell has taken temporary command of the vessel.

Alexander Ashton, with A. J. Taylor, a three, tugboat owners, is reported ill at his home in Capitol Heights, Md., of what is thought to be typhoid fever.

Capt. Howard, master of the schooner Battle Nicholson, has gone to Baltimore for a few days, while his schooner is discharging lumber at this city.

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How Thousands of Mothers Keep Their Children Well and Strong

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Miss Ellen O'Leary, mother of the children's home in Lowell, Mass., says: "I have 30 or 40 children here at the Children's Home constantly. When they are weak or run down, I always give them Father John's Medicine to build them up. They gain rapidly under the treatment the medicine affords. Whenever they get colds or have a cough or throat irritation, Father John's Medicine gives prompt relief. Signed: ELLEN O'LEARY, Matron, Children's Home, Lowell, Mass."

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ALEXANDRIA AFFAIRS

James E. Peterson Dies From Injuries Received in Fall.

MASONS MAKE VISITATION

High Priest Louis Meyers Heads Delegation From This City—Successful Year's Work.

Special Correspondence of The Star.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., May 2.—As the result of a fall from a scaffolding on which he was working, James E. Peterson, 62 years old, died at the Alexandria Hospital, Mr. Peterson was engaged in painting a house at the time of the fall. He was immediately brought to Alexandria and operated on for a fractured spine.

Mr. Peterson had lived in Alexandria for a number of years. Mrs. J. H. Chilcott of 115 South St. Asph street is his sister. The body will be shipped Monday next to Front Royal for burial.

One hundred members of Lafayette Chapter, No. 5, Royal Arch Masons, headed by Louis Meyers, high priest, of Washington, came to Alexandria to visit Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 11, of this city, the occasion being an annual visitation which is made each year between the two lodges. Degree work was conferred by the staff of officers of the Washington chapter, which was followed by a banquet served in the Young People's building. Claude W. Chesnut, high priest of the local chapter, toastmaster.

High Priest Meyers and Mr. Pettus, grand high priest of the District of Columbia, made addresses.

The banquet was served by the women of Martha Washington Chapter, O. E. S. A number of members of the Masonic craft of this city will Wednesday night visit Washington Centennial Lodge, Washington, when a social session will be held.

Nearly \$20,000 Collected.

Contributions amounting to \$19,517 have been received thus far for the building fund of the Alexandria Hospital. It is expected that by tonight the twenty-thousand-dollar mark will be reached. The performance last evening at the Opera House by the High School Players for the fund was well patronized and a goodly sum realized.

The Jefferson District Citizens' Association, at a meeting last night, directed that the draw bridge be closed during the rush hours in the morning and afternoon. There will be a public hearing by the War Department on this matter May 11.

A successful year's work in the Second Presbyterian Church is reported by Rev. Dr. John Lee Allison, pastor, in his report submitted to the Presbytery of Potomac.

The report follows: Active members, 420; Sunday school, 475; benevolence, \$1,200; congregational, \$10,520; all causes, \$13,650. At this church tomorrow there will be communion service and reception to new members. Preaching at both services will be by the pastor.

Held on Shooting Charge.

Thomas Roddy, colored, charged with shooting Leonard Nalls, assistant superintendent of the Alexandria Hospital, is held in the city jail.

Assurance is given that Dr. Edward Ryan of Scranton, Pa., who has been doing Red Cross work in Mexico, and who was said to be imprisoned and about to be executed at Zacatecas, will be given safe conduct to United States territory.

Advices reached the State Department through the Brazilian and Spanish ambassadors that Gen. Huerta has ordered his release if under detention—that from Gen. Huerta's foreign minister, saying that the situation was greatly relieved in the day of receipt of dispatches from Gen. Huerta's foreign minister, saying orders had been given to release Dr. Ryan if imprisoned and give him safe conduct to Mexico City or Vera Cruz.

Threatened Serious Consequences.

For a time the case threatened serious consequences, for if Dr. Ryan, an American official, was to be shot as a spy, as first reported, it promised to cause another grave issue over the execution of an official after a military amnesty was in effect. For this reason, Dr. Ryan made the most urgent representations to the Spanish ambassador, who reported them with the same urgency to Mexico City.

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